

REMARKS

This Amendment accompanies a concurrently filed RCE. The applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough examination of the application. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this Reply.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claim 7 has been amended to improve its language. Claims 11-20 correspond to claims 1-10 but omit reciting that the diffusing sheet may include a printing portion made of a colorless ink containing a light scattering agent.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Over Nagakubo And Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over Nagakubo And Mashino

Claims 1-5, 7, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nagakubo (U.S. Patent 6,219,117 B1). Claims 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Nagakubo (as applied to claims 1-5, 7, 9 and 10) in view of Mashino (U.S. Patent 5,886,759). Applicant traverses.

The Present Invention and its Advantages

The present invention pertains to a back light for a liquid crystal device that utilizes a novel reflector that includes colorless ink containing a light scattering agent. Independent claims 1 and 11 of the invention recite a reflector where “the

reflector includes a printing portion made of colorless ink containing a light scattering agent.”

Similarly, independent claims 3 and 12 contain the limitation: “the reflector includes a printing portion made of colorless ink containing a light scattering agent.”

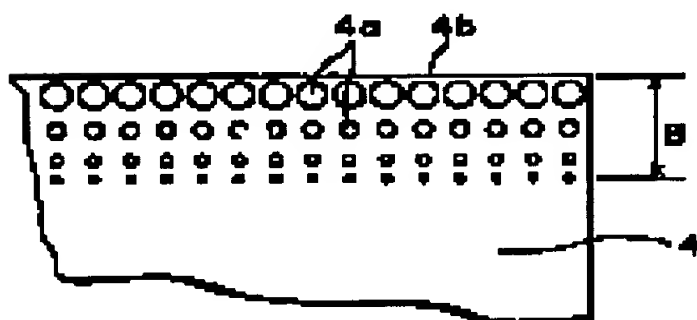
That is, independent claims 1, 3, 11 and 12 of the invention recite “colorless ink containing a **light scattering agent**.”

Distinctions of the Invention Over Nagakubo and Taniguchi

Distinctions of the invention over Nagakubo and Taniguchi have been placed before the Examiner. Nagakubo fails to disclose or suggest “a printing portion made of colorless ink containing a light scattering agent.” See claims 1, 3, 11 and 12 of the invention.

Figure 3 of Nagakubo is reproduced below.

FIG. 3



*Figure 3 of
Nagakubo*

Nagakubo at column 7, lines 22-34, does have the following disclosure:

As shown in FIG. 3, since the **diffusion plate** 4 has the light quantity control portion 4a formed on the one surface thereof which is not subjected to the glaring prevention on the end 4b side located near to the backlight source 8, the light quantity control portion 4a being formed by print or the like to a dot pattern which is **composed of a white material having a light transmitting property to a certain extent**, a part of the light from the backlight source 8 passes through the light quantity control portion 4a and emerges to the lens sheets 3 on the light quantity control portion 4a and the remaining light reflects at the light quantity control portion 4a and makes **irregular reflection** in the light transmission member 5. (emphases added)

However, the reflection property described in Nagakubo is fundamentally different than the light scattering material of the invention, as has been described in previous responses.

Also, independent claims 11 and 12 (and their dependent claims) do not pertain to a diffusion plate. Instead, independent claims 11 and 12 recite: "at least one of an edge portion of the protecting sheet adjacent to the lamp or the reflector includes a printing portion made of colorless ink containing a light scattering agent." As a result, claims 11 and 12 (and their dependent claims) are patentable for these additional reasons.

These rejections are overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

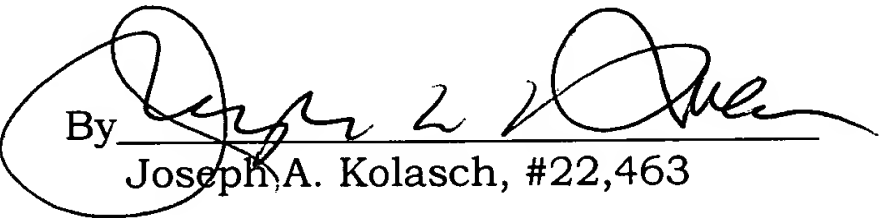
Conclusion


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Joseph A. Kolasch, #22,463


JAK/REG/jls
3430-0154P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000